

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in the above-identified patent application. Pursuant to the Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1 to 17 have been canceled and newly-submitted Claims 18 to 34 have been added. This Preliminary Amendment does not add new subject matter. Applicant also notes for the record that the purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to place the specification and the claims in proper format. Therefore, Applicant does not intend to disclaim any subject matter in view of this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Renato L. Smith
Reg. No. 45,117
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
Phone: (312) 807-4443

Dated: October 13, 2004